

Age of Fable. 1

Stories of Gods and Heroes

The religions of the ancient
Greece and Rome are extinct

The so-called deities of
Olympus have not a single
worshipper among living
men. They belong now

not to the department of
Theology but to those of
Literature and art.

There they still hold their
place and will continue
to hold it as long as a bit
of marble or a written line
exists - so to be seen. closely connected
with the finest productions of
poetry and art both ancient
and modern.

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In these Saturday mornings
lectures I propose to tell the
stories relating to them which
have come down to the present
and which are alluded
to by modern poets, essays,
and orators. The most
charming fiction which
Fairy has ever created
and put ⁱⁿ information
unobtainable to every one
who would read with
intelligence. The literature
of his own and other
days.

In order to understand
these stories it will be
necessary to acquaint
ourselves with the ideas

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fragrance of vineyards was
wafted over the sea.

Suddenly a lion stood among
them, the sailors jumped
overboard, were changed
into dolphins while the
god, taking on his natural
form, ran the ship into
port. —

Such a god appealing to the
imagination could only be
worshipped by rules and
ceremonies: essentially dramatic
seed time & harvest festivals
were the occasions for such
worship.

Worshippers often wore garlands
to comely Satyrs and
to save Lacedæmon its name

Grouped about ⁵ rude altar-
in a rude chorus they told
the story of the gods' banding
not with words only but
with gesture dance & music.
Expression of thought and
feeling was free from
self-consciousness
murors of the emotions
of the worshippers

This ballad dance
Mr. Houlton describes
as a kind of literary
protoplasm — because
several literary forms
were implicit in it
and were later developed out of
it.

It is sober history, simple
and not figurative speech
that the drama was born
at the foot of the altar
1500 years later the drama
is born again at the foot
of the altar —

Whatever moribund streams
of tradition may have flowed
from the days of a declining
theatre at Rome though
the confused and largely
recordless ~~days~~ of the early
middle ages it may safely
be assumed that the modern
drama began as the ancient
drama had begun in the
development of worship
along dramatic lines

It is difficult for us to realize in imagination the isolation of small communities and of great castles in the Middle Ages — The strolling player was welcome not only because he was entertaining but because he brought the air of the remote world with him.

Vulgarity if it shows everywhere. Indecency! Adapting themselves to popular taste when popular taste was coarse to the last degree was inevitable —

The Church tried to influence this and in the fifteenth century the plays and focal histories histories were put under

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ecclesiastical Condemnation.
Church Condemning the
slayers and excluding them
from the Sacraments



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